

Sports Thru The Lion's Eye

By JAKE HIGHTON
Collegian Sports Editor



"The kids want to win." Briefly but aptly, these words, spoken yesterday by Rip Engle, give away a large part of the formula for Penn State football success to date this season. Enthusiasm, spirit, and hustle have been the meat upon which the East's rising Caesars are feeding.

With fall's annual whirl three-quarters of the way through its fast and furious dash, the Nittany grid picture has far more sun spots than the dark clouds many crystal balls foresaw. Who would have guessed that State would meet on successive weekends, Nebraska, Michigan State, and Penn—all of whom turned up unheaven when met—and come through with two wins? But then, who would have guessed that the wonderful spirit displayed by the team since spring practice could carry so much weight in the victory column?

It is this intangible spirit factor which gives one faith in the current Nittany eleven. If they should lose to Syracuse and Pitt—very real possibilities—it won't be because the Lion team had visions of cotton balls "dancing in their heads." It will be because Syracuse, loser only to Michigan State and another "pro" team, and Pitt, lone winner over Notre Dame, have excellent football teams.

With all the hubbub over offense personified in Oklahoma and its 42 point per game average, it was gratifying to see in the Lions' 14-7 win over Penn that the defense was actually the scorer of both touchdowns. And what a defense State threw up against Penn! Dave Simon and Don Malinak turned the outside running stuff inside to tackles Stew Scheetz and Rosey Grier—both of whom at 230 pounds look like fugitives from a pro line—and guard Don Barney, a sturdy middle of the line.

Backersup Joe Gratson, Sam Green, and Bob Smith performed excellently in filling up in the slots in State's seven-man line. But the key to the effective diamond defense was the man right behind the line, Pete Schoderbek. Pete was a ubiquitous demon who was determined to give Penn more static than his brother Steve (Navy) did last week. A hole opened, a streak darted through, and cut the ball carrier down with slashing ankle-high tackles. Invariably when the tangle unpretzeled, number "61" had been shooting the gaps, Pete's performance was one a "Lineman of the Week" accolade could hardly do justice to.

In the secondary, Don Eyer, Jack Sherry, and Bill Leonard threw up a tenacious defense which intercepted five Penn passes—reported by a Bulletin writer as the most Penn has ever had intercepted in one game within his memory.

Then there is the matter of the 87 yards lost by Penn backs trying to pass. A guy named Green changed the Red & Blue in Adams and Hynoski to Black & Blue. And the chances the Quakers flubbed? First down on State's 34 in the first period with a 7-0 lead. A recovered fumble on the Lion 37 in the second quarter. Then the recovered fumble on the Lion 20 after the second half kickoff. And the Penns—who never played better all year—dared holler "rather be lucky than good." Phooey!!

As to the Nittany offense, it seems to lack some of its early season sharpness. But Engle has two explanations. (1) By this time the Lions are well scouted by opponents who take their look-sees often three games in advance. (2) Rip lays much of the trouble to relatively inexperienced sophomores and their difficulty to change blocking assignments with unexpected defensive alignments. But brother! With five sophs like Grier, Dubs Haldeman, Gene Danser, Don Shank, and Jess Arnelie in the starting offensive lineup—that's hardly unhealthy for the future.

Despite all the facetiousness about State's two "sustained drives" of six and eight yards, State never really had a fair chance to get a drive underway. Constantly kept in its own territory by good Penn punting, State seldom had its dual threat of mixing passing with running.

After the game, Penn Coach George Munger, who hasn't beaten State in six attempts since 1936, was wondering if he would "live long enough to have the thrill of a victory over Penn State." By the looks of Coach Earl Bruce's frosh victory over Penn, 25-7, Munger may have to live to be a Methuselah.

High School Coach

Elwood Petchel, Penn State's star scatback of four years ago, coaches football at North Union Township High School.

Plays Pro Ball

Fran Rogel, Penn State's top ground gainer in 1947-48-49, is the only ex-Lion currently playing professional football.

Bill 'The Toe' Leonard . . .

Excels in Kicking

By SAM PROCOPIO

Many times there are sports stalwarts who profess their ambition for one sport and become an outstanding performer in another in which they participate simply for an extra activity.

Bill "The Toe" Leonard may be placed among such stalwarts. Although he has achieved much in baseball, his professional ambition, he has excelled just as much, if not more, for the Nittany Lions' football eleven as an extra-point specialist and an outstanding passing defender.

Leonard, born in Altoona, is a resident of State College. As a senior at State College High School he first showed an interest in kicking points after touchdowns. When he arrived on campus on a baseball scholarship, the halfback became Vince O'Bara's understudy in football's "do or die" situation. Leonard, improving with each game on his kicking as well as on his defensive position, has been a mainstay for Coach Rip Engle.

Engle Given Credit

Asked what is the necessary requirement for a placement kicker, the tall halfback said "Leg power, because the kicker is required to boot the ball high. If he can't do this, his opponents will block the attempt."

"Most credit for my success can be attributed to Engle, who has taught me many of the finer points in kicking," the senior explained.

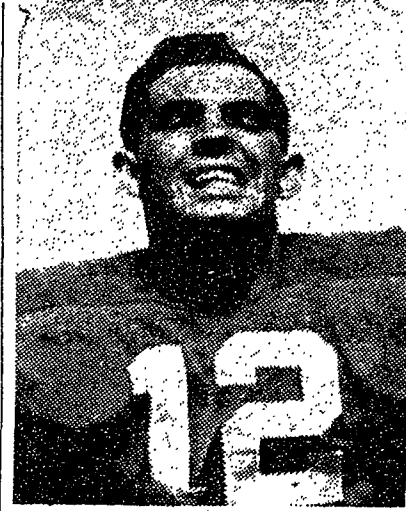
"Of course, I can't overlook Dick Jones who holds the kicks for me," he said. "To me the man holding the ball is 90 per cent of kicking. Jones gets the ball down fast and holds the lacing forward most of the time which is a great help to me. He also gives me a great deal of confidence."

Most outstanding extra point kickers boot some 200 placements between the uprights a night, but Leonard kicks only 12 placements and four field goals three nights a week.

Likes Defense

"The Toe," in his three years with the Nittany Lions, has attempted three field goals. Twice he has been successful. The oddity of this accomplishment is that both three pointers have been made against Nebraska and from the 17 yard line each time. Although 17 yards from the goal is the farthest Leonard has attempted any try, he is confident of splitting the uprights from 30 yards out, if needed.

Leonard has expressed his desire to play mostly on defense—especially against passing. This he has done and done well. Last Saturday against Penn he exhibited his ability. The halfback, who split the uprights on both conversion tries for his 14th in succession, split the Quaker's passing



Bill Leonard

attack frequently from his defensive halfback position. In addition to breaking up several Quaker aerials, his end zone interception in the second quarter halted a Penn sustained attack.

EXTRA POINTS . . . Member of Phi Delta Theta . . . in the advanced ROTC Army Signal Corps . . . a catcher for the Lions' baseball nine . . . likes to travel the States . . . majoring in education.

Boxing Managers
Candidates for assistant boxing managers will meet at 7:30 tonight in 103 Willard.

Freedman Wins IM Independent Tennis Crown

Jay Freedman is the 1952 independent intramural tennis singles champion by virtue of his 6-3, 7-5 defeat of Dean Mullen. The victory was the champ's sixth of the tournament.

Mullen, who appeared to have an easy time defeating most of his opponents, found a tough competitor in Freedman. In fact, Freedman and Mullen went into overtime to decide the second match.

In fraternity play six of the flight winners who will enter the championship flight were decided. Bill Wallis, Sigma Pi, had to go into overtime to win from Greenwalt, Sigma Alpha Epsilon, 8-6, 6-3, in flight one. Flight two, Sam Lemon, Sigma Nu, won from Vinton Ostrander, Sigma Phi Sigma, 6-1, 6-2. John Cleary, Phi Kappa Tau, captured flight three by defeating George Lynch, Beta Theta Pi, 11-9, 6-1.

Lewis Landon, Sigma Pi, bested Bob Stoup, Beta Theta Pi, 6-0, 7-5, in flight six. George Crouse, Phi Kappa Sigma, eliminated Thayer Potter, Phi Delta Theta, 6-4, 6-2, in flight seven. Louis Riggs, Sigma Chi, felled Mike Kirshner, Sigma Nu, in capturing his third win and flight eight.

Flight winners not decided as yet are in four and five. Dick Lindfors, Phi Kappa Sigma, has advanced to round four in flight four, while Paul Brobst, Triangle, and Nichol, Alpha Gamma Rho, advanced in flight five.

Former Star Passer

Bill Smaltz, Penn State's star passer in the pre-World War II days, is head coach of football at Juniata College.

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